

Appl. No. : 10/073,070
Filed : February 7, 2002

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 26 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 28, respectively. Claims 2 and 28 were cancelled. As a result of the amendment, Claims 1, 3-27, and 29-44 are presented for further examination. No new matter has been added herewith.

The changes made to the Claims by the current amendment, including ~~deletions~~ and additions, are shown herein with deletions designated with a strikethrough and additions underlined.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-44 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Schauder U.S. patent 6,383,439.

However, Claims 1 and 26 have been amended to include the step of pelletization. Thus, Schauder et al. does not anticipate the claimed invention because Schauder et al. does not teach or suggest the pelletization of the EPDM in order to modify the EPDM within the extruder. Schauder et al. discloses that modified polymer may be mixed with an additional polymer using a single- or twin-screw extruder, but does not mention pelletization of the EPDM in order to modify the EPDM within the extruder. Thus, Schauder et al. neither anticipates nor renders the claimed invention obvious.

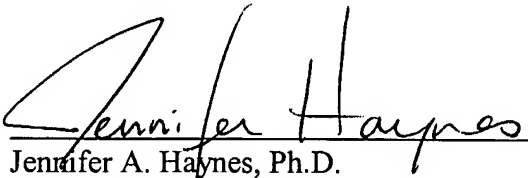
Conclusions:

Should there be any questions concerning the above-mentioned patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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